Laddakh region of Jammu and Kashmir had not been opened for the foreign tourists;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the places of the said region where the foreign tourists are allowed to visit at present; and

(d) the period for which the foreigners can stay at Ladakh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) and (b). Foreign tourists in groups consisting of 4 or more persons sponsored by recognised tour operators are permitted to visit the following places, for a maximum period of 7 days after obtaining necessary permit from the competent authority.

Places

(i) *Khaltse Sub-Division (Drokanpa Area)*

(a) Khaltse-Dumkhar-Skorduchan-Hanudo-Biama-Dha.

(ii) *Nubra Sub-Division*

(a) Leh-Khardung La-Khalsar-Tirit upto Panamik.

(b) Leh-Khardung La-Khalsar upto Hunder

(c) Leh-Sabo-Digar La-Digar-Labab-Khandgru Gampa-Tangar.
(Only for trekking conducted by approved tour operators and accompanied by State Police Personnel).

(iii) Nyoma Sub-Division

(a) Leh-Upshi-Chumathang-Mahe-Puga-Tso-Morari Lake/Korzok.

(b) Leh-Upshi-Debring-Puga-Tso-Morari Lake/Korzok.

(c) Leh-Karu-Chang La-Durbuk-Tangtse-Lukung-Spankmik (Pangong Lake upto Spankmik).

Basic Amenities

1868. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to improve the basic amenities in rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to increase the amount to be allocated for the purpose during 1997-98; and

(d) if so, the extent of increase alongwith details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

Seven Basic Services have been identified to be given priority for implementation under the Minimum Programme. The Services identified are :

(1) 100 per cent coverage of provision of safe drinking water in rural and urban areas.

(2) 100 per cent coverage of primary health facilities in rural and urban areas.

(3) Universalisation of primary education.

(4) Provision of public housing assistance to all shelterless poor families.

(5) Extension of mid-day meal programme in primary schools, to all rural blocks and urban slums and disadvantaged sections.

(6) Provision of connectivity to all unconnected villages and habitations.

(7) Streamlining the public ditribution with focus on the poor.

In the budget of 1996-97, Rs. 2466 crores have been provided as additional Central Assistance to States earmarked for these seven Basic Minimum Services.

(c) and (d). No decision has yet been taken regarding the amount to be allocated under the programme during 1997-98.

[English]

Fruit Processing Industries

1869. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) the present position of Fruit Processing Industries in the cooperative sector in Maharashtra;

(b) whether the Government have provided any financial assistance; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI DILIP KUMAR RAY) : (a) At present, there are 23 units engaged in the processing of fruits and vegetables in cooperative sector in the State of Maharashtra.

(b) and (c). Ministry of Food Processing Industries has provided financial assistance amounting to Rs. 264.37 lakhs under its various plan schemes during the Eighth Plan period for the development of fruits and vegetables processing units in cooperative sector in Maharashtra. Besides, financial assistance is also provided by the National Horticulture Board, Agricultural